

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1950



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Together with the Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1950.

Area (in acres)	3,777
Population 1921 (census)	13,511
„ 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,247
„ 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,460
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1921 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,076
„ „ „ „ „ 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,827
„ „ „ „ „ 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,217
Rateable Value, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£87,443
Product of a penny rate, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£340

Live Births.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	220	111	109	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	4	3	
					227	115	112	13.79

Stillbirths.								
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	5	2	3	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					5	2	3	0.30

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	222	108	114	13.48

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.	
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.	nil.

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births :

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	10	4	6	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	10	4	6	44.05

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil.

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Rushden Urban District Council.

Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLORS MRS. A. ROWTHORN, J. ALLEN, A. H. BAILEY, W. J. KELLER, MRS. A. U. MUXLOW, C.C., J. H. J. PARAGREEN, E. J. ROE, E. A. SUGARS, H. WARING.

COUNCILLOR F. E. BROWN, J.P., Chairman of the Council, was an *ex-officio member*.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector :

H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

J. A. MCPHERSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.M. M.R.S.A. (Scotland).

to 14th November, 1950.

1951.

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Rushden.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for 1950 upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the area.

The vital statistics for the period under review were as follows : Birth rate 13.79, as compared with 13.34 for 1949 ; Death rate 13.48—the previous year it was 13.46. Infant mortality rate 44.05 as compared with a rate of 13.69 in 1949. It will be seen in the report that six of the ten Infant deaths were under the heading of Neonatal Mortality, which is a sub-division of Infant Mortality and concerns infants who die within 28 days of independent existence. The 1949 rate, it must be remembered, was the lowest ever recorded.

The situation with regard to Infectious Diseases during the year was as follows : Fewer cases of Scarlet Fever occurred than in the previous year. The number of cases of Whooping Cough also showed a fall, but an outbreak of measles occurred, 299 cases being notified. No cases required removal to hospital and no deaths were recorded. Four cases of Poliomyelitis occurred. It is interesting to note that three cases were in adults and the fourth in an adolescent. The previous year all cases were in children whose ages ranged between 2 years and 10 years. The four cases were removed to hospital and none proved fatal.

This is the fifth year that the area has been free from a case of Diphtheria. Every effort should be made to keep up the immunisation figures, and parents should be warned that Diphtheria is still present in this country and that Diphtheria kills. The vaccination figures show some improvement but are still far from satisfactory. Recent outbreaks in the country should act as a warning to parents to take the necessary precautions and have their children protected by vaccination. Primary vaccination should be carried out in Infancy.

Eighteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, which shows a slight increase in the number notified in the previous two years. During the year the area was visited by the Mass Radiography unit. The results of the survey made by this unit will be found in the report. It is interesting to note that with such a survey a considerable number of cases other than Tuberculosis are brought to light. The value of such a unit to the community is very great and the Director of the unit is to be congratulated on the thoroughness of his work in the area.

The housing situation still remains one of our biggest problems, and despite the efforts of the Council to build more and more houses, the list of applicants for houses continues to grow. Many visits were made to inspect the living conditions of council house applicants. These visits gave some insight into the unhealthy and unhappy conditions under which some of our less fortunate townspeople have to live. The prevention of disease will always be a difficult problem as long as the housing shortage exists. A healthy body and mind require good housing.

I should like to express my thanks to the Senior Sanitary Inspector for his willing co-operation and assistance throughout the year, and to thank the Surveyor and Housing Manager for data supplied for this report. The compilation of material and mathematical calculations necessary for an annual report requires a considerable amount of work, and I have been very ably assisted by Miss Pearson in the production of this report. The year has been a very full one, and the variety of duties that a Medical Officer is called upon to perform are legion, but the friendly co-operation of Officers and members of the Council have lessened my task and it is with pleasure that I express my appreciation of the assistance and help that I have always received from the Health Committee.

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area. The Urban District of Rushden covers 3,777 acres. A number of building estates occur on the perimeter of the town and many of the houses in the town itself have open spaces in their vicinity. There are not many congested housing areas.

The density of population equals 4.3 persons per acre and the housing factor is 3.1 persons per house.

Population. The estimated mid-year home population for 1950 given in the Registrar General's returns, is 16,460 persons. This shows an increase of 50 persons on the previous year. The natural increase for the year was 5, births outnumbering deaths by this figure.

Deaths. 222 deaths occurred during the year. This figure was arrived at after the necessary adjustment for inward and outward transferable deaths was made by the Registrar General in his returns. This shows an increase of one on last year's figures. The rate for the year was 13.48 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with 13.46 for 1949. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

The following table shows a comparison between the figures for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for the period 1946 to 1950.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rushden</i>				<i>County England & Wales</i>	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Fe- male</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>	<i>Recorded Rate</i>
1946	215	118	97	14.13	12.00	11.50
1947	200	103	97	12.95	12.43	12.00
1948	184	95	89	11.27	11.00	10.80
1949	221	112	109	13.46	12.07	11.70
1950	222	108	114	13.48	*	11.60

* *Not available*

Table No. 1, page 25, gives a classification of the causes of death and is in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Table No. 2, page 26, gives a list of deaths from selected causes for the period 1929 to 1950.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System numbered 117 out of a total of 222 deaths, which is 52.7% of the deaths. Cancer deaths numbered 34, which equals 15.3% ; Tuberculosis 3 deaths, giving a percentage

of 1.3% ; Diseases of the Respiratory System, 26, which is 11.8% of the total deaths.

Births. 227 live births were recorded during the year ; of these 115 were males and 112 females. This gives a birth rate of 13.79 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for the previous year was 13.34 and the rate for England and Wales for 1950 was 15.8.

An interesting table will be seen on page 27, table No. 4, showing the vital statistics over a period 1898 to 1950.

The following table shows a comparison between the birth rates for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for the period 1946 to 1950.

Birth Rate, 1946-1950.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Rushden	17.74	19.94	17.34	13.34	13.79
Administrative County	19.17	20.42	17.46	16.19	*
England and Wales	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8

** Not available.*

Stillbirths. Five stillbirths were recorded during the year. There were two the previous year. This gives a rate of 0.30 per 1,000 of the population compared with 0.12 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 0.37. Table No. 5, page 28 shows the rates for the period 1934 to 1950, together with rates of Illegitimacy and Masculinity of Birth.

Illegitimate Births. Seven illegitimate births were registered during the year. Of these four were males and three females. This gives a rate of 30.83 per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1949 was 36.52.

Maternal Mortality. No deaths were recorded under this heading.

Infant Mortality. Ten infant deaths were recorded during the year. Four male and six female infants died before attaining their first birthday. This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 44.05 per 1,000 live births. The following table shows a comparison between the rate for England and Wales, the Administrative County and Rushden for a period 1946 to 1950.

Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.

		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Rushden	...	33.33(9)	25.97(8)	31.80(9)	13.69(3)	44.05(10)
Administrative						
County	...	36.86	35.07	31.67	33.78	*
England and						
Wales	...	43.00	41.00	34.00	32	29.8

* *Not available.*

The rate shows an increase on that for 1949 when the lowest Infant Mortality rate ever was recorded.

Neonatal Mortality. This is a subdivision of the Infant Mortality rate and includes all infants who die within 28 days of independent existence. Table No. 3, page 26 gives the causes of death of children under one year of age. From this it will be seen that six out of the ten deaths come in this subdivision and that the Neonatal Mortality rate for 1950 is 26.43.

Deaths under one month per 1,000 live births.

		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Rushden	...	25.92(7)	12.94(4)	14.13(4)	13.69(3)	26.43(6)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Service. Specimens in connection with Infectious or Communicable Diseases are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital. The co-operation of Dr. Hoyle, who is in charge of this Laboratory, was much appreciated during the year.

Water samples are also sent here and milk samples which were previously sent to the County Health Laboratory are now sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. A supply of antitoxin for the use of General Practitioners in the area was kept at the Public Health Department, Swanspool, Wellingborough, during the year. This practice has been discontinued and stocks are now available at the following places :

Wellingborough Hospital ;
Northampton General Hospital ;
Rushden House Sanatorium ;
Rockingham Road, Kettering.

Ambulance Services. The Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association provides two ambulances for service in the area.

Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring removal to hospital are transported by the ambulance service of the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

Nursing in the Home. Two State Certified Midwives and one State Registered Nurse are employed by the Rushden Nursing Association for the area.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Antenatal and Post Natal Clinics are held on Tuesday mornings at the Wesleyan Church Rooms. These Clinics are run by the County Council.

A Child Welfare Clinic is also held at the Wesleyan Church Rooms on Wednesday afternoons.

Hospitals. The Hayway Hospital, Rushden, provides facilities for outpatients and is visited by consultants from Northampton and Kettering. This is a great benefit to the people of Rushden and avoids the journey to Northampton General Hospital which previously they had to make.

The following Outpatient Clinics are held :

Gynaecological	...	1st and 3rd Monday morning
		2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon
Medical	... ..	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday afternoon
Surgical	... ..	1st 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday afternoon
E.N.T.	... ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday morning
		1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday afternoon
Eyes	... ..	1st and 3rd Thursday morning
Orthoptist	... ..	Every Wednesday morning
		Every Thursday morning and afternoon
Urological	... ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon
Physiotherapy	...	Monday afternoons

The Rushden House Sanatorium. Outpatient Clinics are held here for the area.

Isolation Hospital. The Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, serves the area. Five cases from the area were admitted to this hospital during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply. Full details concerning the three sources of supply were given in last year's report, so only a brief reference is necessary. The sources are as follows :

(1) *Sywell.* Sywell reservior, which covers $68\frac{1}{2}$ acres and has a capacity of 236,000,000 gallons when full. Filtration is carried out by means of three slow sand filters and the water is then chlorinated before being pumped into the mains for distribution.

(2) *Wollaston.* Wells in the Nene gravels. Water is first filtered by means of two mechanical filters and then chlorinated before being passed into circulation.

(3) *Wymington Works.* Four wells sunk into the Northampton Sands at the outcrop of the Upper Lias Clay. Chlorination is carried out by means of a portable chlorinator. This supply is only used in case of emergency.

The water supply is provided by the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Joint Board.

Chemical Analysis of samples of water taken during the year showed it to be satisfactory.

Hardness—Sywell Reservoir Direct, untreated.

Total	...	...	...	12.40 degrees
Permanent	...	...	...	6.40 degrees
Temporary	...	...	...	6.00 degrees

Wollaston Well Direct, untreated.

Total	...	...	...	20.56 degrees
Permanent	...	...	...	9.40 degrees
Temporary	...	...	...	11.16 degrees

Mixed—Sample of water labelled “ Distribution system, Rushden—Hall Avenue ”.

Total	...	...	...	15.88 degrees
Permanent	...	...	...	7.80 degrees
Temporary	...	...	...	8.08 degrees

Quality of Water. Routine water samples for Bacteriological examination are taken from the different sources and from the mains and sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Northampton. All treated samples proved to be very satisfactory.

The following table shows the daily consumption of water per head of population for Domestic and Municipal purposes and for Trade purposes and covers the period 1945 to 1950 :

		1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Domestic and Municipal							
Purposes	... ..	22.17	21.41	26.00	23.83	20.7	20.6
Trade Purposes	...	3.35	3.02	5.00	4.43	4.65	9.31
<hr/>							
Total	... ..	25.52	24.43	31.00	28.26	25.35	29.91
<hr/>							

From this it would appear that during the year the demand for water for Trade purposes has increased.

5,094 houses in the area have a piped water supply. 102 houses are dependent on standpipes. 42 houses are not supplied with a piped water supply.

- Number of Council houses connected up during 1950—21.
- Number of Private houses connected up during 1950—10.
- Number of houses on the Court Estate connected during 1950—3.

The rainfall for the period 1945-1950 was :

		1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Rushden	... ..	22.10	29.78	19.33	25.66	18.51	25.31
Sywell	... ..	20.70	27.74	19.42	25.35	18.48	24.88

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage works are well maintained. Two samples for Chemical Analysis were taken during the year. The first sample of Crude Sewage was taken at sewer outfall (16/2/50 at 9.45 a.m.) and the second sample of final effluent taken at 10.15 a.m. on same date. Results are given side by side for comparison.

<i>Crude Sewage— Sewer Outfall</i>				<i>Parts per 100,000</i>	<i>Final Effluent</i>
Suspended Solids	... ..	...	...	49.3	6.9
Chloride	... ..	...	...	16.1	13.9
Ammonia (Free and Saline)	...	...	...	11.70	2.99
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	... ..	...	...	1.65	0.11
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C				58.74	4.026
Oxygen absorbed in 3 minutes	...	...	...	33.00	1.790
Dissolved oxygen absorbed in 5 days at 65°F (B.O.D.)	...	...	...	51.5	1.45
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)				0.60	6.0
Nitrites	... ..	...	...	heavy traces	heavy traces
Poisonous metals	... ..	...	...	absent	absent

<i>Crude Sewage— Sewage Outfall</i>				<i>Parts per 100,000</i>	<i>Final Effluent</i>
Tar Compounds	...	...	...	absent	absent
Sulphuretted Hydrogen	...	...	...	absent	absent
Thiocyanates	...	...	...	absent	absent
Thiosulphates	...	...	...	absent	faint trace

A. Microscopic examination of Deposit—Mineral matter, organic debris, chlamydo-bacteria, starch grains, strength of sewage (McGowan) 431.

B. Microscopic examination of Deposit—Mineral matter, organic debris, zinc protozoa and annelidae.

From above it will be seen that the crude sewage is a fairly strong one. The suspended solids figure in the final effluent is rather higher than the figure recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal (3 parts per 100,000).

The B.O.D. 1.45 parts per 100,000 is satisfactory, being under the recommended limit of 2 parts per 100,000.

The final effluent is fairly satisfactory and is fit to be discharged into a stream.

	<i>Filtered</i>	<i>Storm Water</i>	<i>Total</i>
Daily Average	600,000	90,000	690,000 <i>gallons</i>
Maximum Daily Flow	... 700,000	300,000	1,000,000 <i>gallons</i>

Closet Accommodation. The situation remains unchanged from that reported last year ; eight outlying houses are dependent on bucket latrines while the remainder of houses in the area are provided with closets and flushing cisterns.

Disinfection. A steam disinfector is maintained by the authority and is run under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Besides doing excellent work for the area, this department also facilitates neighbouring authorities with regard to disinfection and disinfestation of articles following infectious diseases and infestations.

Full details of the work carried out by this unit during the year will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector’s report.

Concurrent and terminal disinfection of houses associated with cases of infectious diseases was carried out by liquid and gaseous disinfectants when required.

Swimming Baths. The open-air swimming baths run by the Council were well maintained during the season. The water in the pool is filtered

and chlorinated. Samples taken for bacteriological examination during the summer were all satisfactory and tests made for free chlorine showed chlorine present in .5 parts per million. It is advisable to maintain free chlorine in these proportions as it is known that the virus of Poliomyelitis is destroyed by chlorine in water at this strength.

Movable Dwellings. The health committee had to refuse an application for a licence for a caravan site, due to undesirability and lack of the necessary sanitary conveniences. There is a need for such a site in the area, especially with the housing shortage, but such a site must have the necessary facilities provided, in the interest of the persons intending to live there and those in the near vicinity.

Rats and Mice. Damage by Pests Act, 1949. This Act became operative in March, 1950. The Council appointed a full-time rodent operative to deal with the area. An account of the work carried out during the year will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Public Cleansing. The Council have three vehicles for the collection of refuse in the area. The Council tip is situated off the Wellingborough Road and controlled tipping is carried out. In the fly season this tip is sprayed at frequent intervals and action has been taken with regards to rats on the site.

In the near future an alternative site will be required as this is nearing completion.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Details of work carried out during the year are as follows :

Number of Council houses built during the year—21, of which 18 were commenced during the previous year and finished in 1950.

Number under construction at the end of the year	...	90
--	-----	----

Number of licences for private dwellings issued	...	5
---	-----	---

Number of private houses built	10
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Number under construction	3
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of houses converted into flats	Nil.
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	------

The old isolation hospital was converted into 2 flats and the Nurses' quarters converted into one bungalow.

The building programme since the war is as follows :

Total number of post-war houses completed to end of year	
1950...	278

This figure is made up of the following types of houses —

Traditional	...	162
-------------	-----	-----

Non-traditional	...	66
-----------------	-----	----

Temporary Prefabs	...	50
-------------------	-----	----

Housing Applications. The situation as on 31st December, 1950, was as follows :

Total number of ' live ' applicants	...	380
-------------------------------------	-----	-----

Total number of waiting applicants	...	154
------------------------------------	-----	-----

Total number of all applicants	...	534
--------------------------------	-----	-----

At the end of 1949 there were 395 names on the waiting list, and so the list now shows a considerable increase on that figure.

During the year a points system was introduced to deal with the allocation of council houses and this would appear to be working satisfactorily. Many visits were made during the year in connection with housing applications and reports on the living conditions furnished to the housing department.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector in Part Two of his report gives a very full account of the year's work with regard to the inspection and supervision of food.

Milk Supply. From the results of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, it will be seen that the standards with regards to milk in the town were very high. Only twenty bad results out of 132 samples taken is a satisfactory state of affairs, especially when one considers that 15 of these samples were taken in the warmest months of the year when milk is likely to go off more quickly.

Out of 37 samples of Pasteurized milk submitted to the Phosphates test, only two failed to comply with the required standard.

The percentage of Pasteurized milk sold in the area is very high.

The Health Department continued with its drive for a higher standard for washed milk bottles. A higher standard of milk, with slack hygiene in the washing of bottles, defeats its own ends, and so this drive is most important.

Of 24 samples taken from rinsings from washed bottles, 18 were very satisfactory, and six unsatisfactory.

Samples of raw milk examined for the presence of Tubercle bacilli were all negative.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream. Rushden continues to maintain a high standard with regards to the production and sale of ice cream. 46 samples were taken during the season and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Of these 33 were in Grades 1 and 2, and 13 in Grades 3 and 4, four samples only falling into Grade 4. These results are satisfactory.

Clean Food Guild. In last year's annual report steps to form a Northamptonshire Clean Food Guild were reported. Unfortunately, although it was felt that there was a need for such a Guild in the County, this scheme was not proceeded with and it was left to each authority to act in the matter as they thought fit.

Any scheme that has as its object a higher standard of hygiene in connection with the production and handling of food should be encouraged, and in my opinion such a scheme should be introduced in Rushden. The

setting up of Clean Food Guilds is not an easy task and should not be embarked upon lightly. The formation of a Guild should be preceded by a number of phases. First phase I should suggest should be one of propaganda with regards to the necessity for a higher standard and to bring home to the public the dangers associated with the careless handling and production of food. The second phase should be one of instruction classes which should be run for food handlers and those connected with the trade. The full co-operation of the trade must be sought. The final stage should be the formation of a Guild. If this stage is taken first, it will be found that usually only the better type of trader joins, whose premises often are above reproach, and the class that the Guild really wants to try and improve refrain from any contact with the Guild.

The Council are considering a scheme in connection with this matter for the future.

Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940. All meat for Rushden and the surrounding areas is slaughtered at the Bedford Road Abattoir. Inspection of carcasses is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Department—a full list of carcasses inspected and condemned will be found in his report.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox. No cases were notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever. 25 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. Last year there were 38 cases. Cases were scattered throughout the months of the year, the largest number (5) occurred in June. The cases were of a mild variety and no case was removed to hospital.

Diphtheria. For the fifth year no cases of this disease were notified.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Details of the number of children in the area immunised against Diphtheria are given in the following table. This table has been compiled up to 31st December, 1950.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December, 1950

Age at 31.12.50 i.e. Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i> 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5 to 9 1941-1945	10 to 14 1936-1940	<i>Total</i> <i>under 15</i>
Number <i>Immunised</i>	3	82	189	243	195	977	884	2573
Estimated mid-year population 1950	1362					2137		

Number of children immunised during the year 1950 :

<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>Booster doses</i>
89	3	47

These figures do not take into account the number of children immunized by private arrangement.

An Immunisation Clinic is held at the Alfred Street Schools on the first Saturday of each month.

Now that no cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the town for a period of five years, parents must be warned not to become careless and neglect to have their children immunised. Cases of Diphtheria still

occur throughout the country and this disease still remains a deadly killer.

Vaccination. The vaccination figures for the year were as follows :

	<i>Under 1 yr.</i>	1-4	5-14	15 <i>and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	29	12	3	8	52
Re-Vaccination	—	1	4	24	29
				Total	81

The vaccination figures, although still far from satisfactory, do show some improvement, and parents appear to be becoming more conscious to the ever present danger of Smallpox with our modern methods of quick transport.

Measles. 299 cases were notified during the year compared with 45 cases in the previous year. The outbreak commenced in April with 82 cases and reached its maximum in May with 101 cases and was followed by 95 cases in June and tailed off with 11 cases in July. No cases required removal to hospital.

Table No. 6, page 29 gives an analysis of the age and sex incidence of cases with similar details for Whooping Cough. Table No. 10, page 31 gives the monthly incidence of notifiable diseases.

Whooping Cough. 26 cases occurred during the year. In 1949 there were 37 cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia. No cases were notified.

Pneumonia. Two cases were notified. Twelve deaths with pneumonia as the primary cause were certified during the year.

Influenza. One death occurred during the year.

Erysipelas. 3 cases were notified. One case was removed to hospital. Last year there were 8 cases.

Poliomyelitis. Four cases were notified during the year. One case occurred in January and appeared to be the last case associated with six cases in the previous year. The next case occurred in July and was followed by one in September and one in October. It is interesting to note the age incidence of these cases (Table No. 9, page 30). No cases occurred in infants or young children. All cases were removed to the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

Six cases occurred in the previous year, all in the last quarter, and all cases were in children whose ages ranged from 2 years to 10 years.

Tuberculosis. Eighteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1950. Fourteen of these cases were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (10 male, 4 female), and four of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (3 male, 1 female). Three deaths occurred during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1 male, 2 females).

In 1949 there were 16 cases and 9 deaths.

The number of new cases (all forms) notified during the past ten years were as follows :

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
21	20	18	17	31	15	18	11	16	18

The Mortality from Tuberculosis during the same period was :

1941-1950					
Year	Tuberculosis—all forms			Rate (crude) per 1,000 of population	
	Male	Female	Total	Rushden	County
1941	10	4	14	.79	.50
1942	4	4	8	.48	.49
1943	2	3	5	.32	.50
1944	4	7	11	.72	.62
1945	5	1	6	.43	.58
1946	7	3	10	.65	.45
1947	7	2	9	.58	.36
1948	4	2	6	.36	.42
1949	5	4	9	.54	.43
1950	1	2	3	.18	*

* Not available

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1950 was 138—100 Pulmonary (61 male, 39 female), and 38 Non-pulmonary (22 male, 16 female).

Ten cases were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium during the year and four cases were discharged.

Tuberculosis After-Care. The After-Care Committee continues to carry out its very excellent work in the area. The Committee deserve the highest praise for their work.

The Mass Radiography unit visited the area during the year and their survey was carried out from 30th October, 1950, to 19th January,

1951. The area covered by the unit was as follows : Rushden and Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough and Irchester.

The Borough of Higham Ferrers and Rushden area were combined for this survey and separate figures for the two areas are not available.

A summary of the work of the unit is as follows :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	4,721	3,812	8,533
No. recalled for large films	243	169	412
No. recalled for clinical examination	73	55	128
No. referred to Dispensary	18	13	31
Results of Cases referred to Dispensary—			
Tuberculosis—			
Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis—			
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. requiring Sanatorium treatment	4	1	5
No. requiring Domiciliary treatment	1	1	2
	5	2	7

Six of these cases were newly discovered and six had positive sputums.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Observation Cases	9	9	18
Non-Tubercular conditions	4	2	6
Results of cases clinically examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Dispensary—			
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis—			
Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	23	51
Non-Tubercular conditions	27	15	42
Normal	—	4	4

From above summary will be seen the value of such a survey. Not only were six cases with positive sputum found, but persons suffering from other non-tubercular diseases were also discovered. The value of this type of unit to the community is very great and the Director of the Mass Radiography unit is to be congratulated for his excellent work in the area.

No action was considered necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act, 1936, section 172.

Food poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 145 factories and workshops on the register. Sanitary conveniences in factories are satisfactorily maintained. In those factories where mechanical power is not used provision as to cleanliness, number employed, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors, there was no cause for serious complaint. Form 572 (Revised) has been abridged and is given in Table No. 11, page 32.

There was no action necessary in respect of home work (Section 110 and 111).

Further details will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report concerning this section.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE NO. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	2	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	7	—	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	13	6	19
15.	Leukæia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	3	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	13	22	35
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	14	11	25
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	3	1	4
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	22	28	50
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	1	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	6	12
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	8	12
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	3	2	5
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	3	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	5	10	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	1	3
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	4	1	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	1	1
ALL CAUSES					108	114	222

TABLE NO. 2.

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES, 1929-1950.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1929	—	—	12	0.85	21	1.49	39	2.76	9	0.64
1930	1	0.08	7	0.49	11	0.78	38	2.71	16	1.14
1931	—	—	10	0.70	17	1.18	47	3.29	23	1.61
1932	1	0.07	10	0.70	10	0.70	48	3.37	18	1.26
1933	2	0.13	14	0.97	20	1.39	53	3.69	9	0.62
1934	1	0.07	10	0.69	22	1.52	81	5.62	9	0.62
1935	6	0.41	5	0.34	16	1.09	51	3.50	12	0.82
1936	3	0.20	9	0.61	18	1.22	66	4.47	12	0.81
1937	—	—	4	0.26	21	1.41	68	4.56	10	0.67
1938	—	—	10	0.66	23	1.52	69	4.57	7	0.46
1939	1	0.06	11	0.70	23	1.46	57	3.63	9	0.57
1940	3	0.17	10	0.60	32	1.92	78	4.69	23	1.38
1941	1	0.06	13	0.52	32	1.81	79	4.48	26	1.47
1942	1	0.06	7	0.43	28	1.72	72	4.42	13	0.80
1943	—	—	5	0.32	32	2.00	51	3.29	20	1.29
1944	4	0.26	7	0.46	22	1.45	101	6.66	22	1.45
1945	2	0.14	4	0.28	24	1.76	101	7.17	9	0.63
1946	3	0.19	7	0.46	29	1.90	106	6.31	18	1.18
1947	1	0.06	8	0.51	15	0.97	115	7.44	17	1.10
1948	—	—	6	0.36	30	1.83	95	5.82	16	0.98
1949	2	0.12	7	0.42	31	1.88	123	7.49	23	1.40
1950	—	—	3	0.18	34	2.06	117	7.10	26	1.57

TABLE NO. 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks					
	—1	—2	—3	—4	5-52	Total
1. Congenital malformations...	1	—	—	—	1	2
2. Diseases of Early Infancy						
Congenital debility and icterus.	3	—	—	—	—	
Premature Birth	—	—	—	—	—	3
Injury at Birth	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	3
Others	—	—	—	—	—	
3. Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	3	
4. Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	—	
5. Diseases of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other violence	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. All Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	6	—	—	—	4	10

TABLE No. 4.

DEATH AND BIRTH RATES FOR 1898-1950.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Net Births		Net Deaths belonging to District			
		No.	Rate per 1,000	Under 1 year		At all Ages	
				No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1898	12,000	443	36.9	85	184.0	192	16.0
1899	12,245	463	37.8	49	105.8	145	11.8
1900	14,359	434	30.2	65	149.0	153	10.6
1901	12,453	424	33.6	46	108.4	123	9.7
1902	12,961	407	31.4	50	122.8	133	10.2
1903	13,337	404	30.2	37	91.5	139	10.4
1904	13,713	387	28.2	46	118.8	162	11.8
1905	14,089	328	23.2	36	109.7	119	8.4
1906	14,190	351	24.7	40	113.9	122	8.5
1907	14,816	315	21.2	25	79.3	131	8.1
1908	15,192	310	20.4	35	112.9	122	8.0
1909	15,817	284	17.9	31	109.1	130	8.2
1910	16,442	278	16.9	20	71.9	128	7.7
1911	13,377	281	21.0	29	103.2	130	9.7
1912	13,658	287	21.0	24	83.6	121	8.8
1913	13,752	237	17.2	19	80.1	118	8.7
1914	13,915	246	17.6	18	73.1	124	8.9
1915	13,787	277	19.9	30	108.3	145	10.5
1916	13,531*	256	17.3	15	58.5	138	10.1
1917	12,315*	200	14.5	12	60.0	123	9.9
	13,728†						
	14,722†						
1918	12,900*	158	12.7	8	43.2	129	10.0
	14,454†						
1919	13,850*	206	14.2	27	131.0	153	11.0
	14,428†						
1920	14,402	328	22.7	24	73.1	133	9.2
1921	13,720	273	19.8	22	80.5	147	10.7
1922	13,740	247	17.9	19	76.9	132	9.6
1923	13,790	243	17.6	12	49.3	131	9.4
1924	13,750	198	14.4	11	55.5	135	9.8
1925	13,780	211	15.3	13	61.6	138	10.0
1926	13,520	208	15.3	6	28.8	131	9.7
1927	13,550	174	12.8	10	57.4	139	10.2
1928	13,650	174	12.0	10	57.4	146	10.6
1929	14,020	174	12.4	9	51.7	127	9.0
1930	14,020	191	13.6	7	36.6	121	8.6
1931	14,280	161	11.3	8	49.7	154	10.8
1932	14,240	170	11.9	10	58.8	142	9.9
1933	14,370	168	11.7	7	47.6	159	11.1
1934	14,410	161	11.2	8	49.7	180	12.5
1935	14,550	176	12.1	15	85.2	155	10.7
1936	14,740	182	12.3	5	27.5	167	11.3
1937	14,890	191	12.9	6	31.4	155	10.4
1938	15,090	192	12.7	6	31.3	160	10.6
1939	15,690*	225	14.2	6	26.7	152	9.7
	15,200†						
1940	16,580	200	12.4	16	77.7	233	14.1
1941	17,600	193	10.9	11	54.1	185	10.5
1942	16,250	251	15.5	6	23.9	163	10.0
1943	15,490	281	18.1	8	28.4	172	11.1
1944	15,140	278	18.4	15	53.9	202	13.3
1945	14,070	282	20.0	14	49.6	176	12.6
1946	15,210	270	17.74	9	33.33	215	14.13
1947	15,440	308	19.94	8	25.97	200	12.95
1948	16,320	283	17.34	9	31.80	184	11.27
1949	16,410	219	13.34	3	13.69	221	13.46
1950	16,460	227	13.79	10	44.05	222	13.48

(*) Estimated population for calculation of Birth Rates

(†) Estimated population for calculation of Death Rates.

TABLE No. 5.

**COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS
AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.**

1934-50.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Stillbirths per 1,000.</i>		<i>Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births.</i>	<i>Male births per 1,000 live female births.</i>
	<i>Population of all ages.</i>	<i>Total births (live and still).</i>		
1934	0.55	47.32	49.69	1038
1935	0.76	58.83	39.77	934
1936	0.27	21.51	54.94	1166
1937	0.27	20.51	26.18	1010
1938	0.26	20.41	52.30	1087
1939	0.51	34.34	48.89	1008
1940	0.42	33.89	25.00	923
1941	0.51	44.54	56.99	1144
1942	0.31	19.54	75.70	1002
1943	0.89	47.45	53.46	1006
1944	0.55	32.05	133.09	1122
1945	0.21	20.83	95.74	1389
1946	0.39	21.73	55.55	1368
1947	0.38	25.47	32.46	1013
1948	0.61	34.12	42.40	1035
1949	0.12	9.04	36.52	1126
1950	0.30	21.55	30.83	1026

TABLE No. 6.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
— 6 months ...	1	1	—	—
—12 " ...	6	1	1	—
—18 " ...	7	6	—	—
— 2 years ...	4	5	—	—
—2½ " ...	8	18	2	4
— 3 " ...	4	10	1	3
— 4 " ...	27	33	2	3
— 5 " ...	28	32	—	5
—10 " ...	53	48	3	2
—15 " ...	—	1	—	—
15 " + ...	4	2	—	—
ALL AGES ...	142	157	9	17
TOTALS ...	299		26	

TABLE No. 7.

**BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF
MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES FOR RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT AND ENGLAND
AND WALES. 1950.**

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Rushden</i>
Live Births ...	15.8	13.79
Stillbirths ...	0.37	0.30
Deaths		
All Causes ...	11.6	13.48
Typhoid ...	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.36	0.18
Influenza ...	0.10	0.06
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00
Acute Polio-myelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)...	0.02	0.00
Pneumonia...	0.46	0.72
Deaths under one year ...	29.8	44.05
Notifications		
Typhoid ...	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid ...	0.01	0.00
Meningococcol Infection ...	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	1.50	1.51
Whooping Cough ...	3.60	1.57
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.17	0.18
Measles ...	8.39	18.16
Pneumonia ...	0.70	0.12
Acute Polio-myelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)—		
Paralytic ...	0.13	0.24
Non-Paralytic ...	0.05	0.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.17	0.00

TABLE No. 8.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
—25	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
—35	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
—45	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	4	3	1	1	2	—	—

TABLE No. 9.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis). 1950.

Diseases	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	2	5	11	3	1	1	—	1	—	25	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	12
Measles ...	9	22	40	60	60	101	1	2	3	1	—	—	299	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	10	5	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	1	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4	4	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	10	22	51	67	70	118	5	4	7	1	4	—	359	5	12

TABLE No. 10.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis). 1950.

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	1	1	—	2	4	5	3	3	—	1	3	2	25
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Measles ...	—	—	8	82	101	95	11	1	—	—	1	—	299
Whooping cough	7	14	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Erysipelas ...	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	9	16	10	89	105	102	15	4	1	2	4	2	359

TABLE No. 11.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, for the year, 1950.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	139	28	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	145	31	—	Nil.

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) insufficient	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	8	8	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	15	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc.	175	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	1	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	2	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	180	—	—	—	—	—

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

Year 1950



H. W. ELLIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Buildings,
Rushden.

July, 1951.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rushden Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the environmental circumstances of the district for the year 1950.

Public opinion and the national press have been focussed on the hygienic handling of food because of the increase of food poisoning cases and perhaps the publicity given to this subject has overshadowed, to some extent, the greater problem of providing new houses and clearing the old.

Two important Committees were set up by the Government to enquire into aspects of food handling—The Inter-Departmental Committee to give a report on Meat Inspection, and A Working Party to investigate the conditions in Catering Trade.

These reports will be given close study by officials and traders alike, and whilst recommendations may suffer delay of adoption, they can do nothing but good in the formation of future legislation.

Rushden's part in the clean food drive has been played without the aid of a Clean Food Guild but, nevertheless, a great deal of work has been achieved by judicious application of the existing law, new Food Bye-laws and personal contact with the different trades and traders ; a method essential in small compact communities of which this area is a typical example.

The provision of new houses has made steady progress : odd houses have been condemned on becoming vacant, but otherwise there is nothing outstanding to report in this field ; the time is not yet opportune to recommence the wholesale slum clearance which stopped in 1939.

Educational talks have been given to traders and public on several occasions throughout the year and I am certain that the relationship between Council and the public is greatly improved by this approach.

My duties have been made easier by the support received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the advice and assistance of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Bermingham, which I sincerely appreciate.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. W. ELLIS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PART I

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

The following tables indicate the extent of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

1. VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Houses.

Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	574
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	78
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	40
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	5
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	97
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	287
Drainage Tests	...	...	...	...	...	70
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	9
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rats and Mice Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	680
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories, with power	...	...	...	...	...	28
Factories, without power	...	...	...	...	...	3
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outworkers' Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	43
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	22
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	6
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	—
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Acts, 1912-38 (Hours, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	9
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	28
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	...	...	16
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	381
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	376
Verminous Premises or Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	5
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—P.H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	769
Revisits to Premises Under Notice—H. Act	...	...	...	...	...	14
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	11

Meat and Foods.

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	417
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	93
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	27
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	43
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	42
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	107
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	15
Manufacture or preparation of preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	150
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Vans and Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Markets and Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	—
Visits <i>re</i> Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	78
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	132
Milk Bottles and Churn Rinses Sampled	...	...	...	...	...	24
Water Samples Taken—Main	...	...	...	...	...	21
Rivers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	6

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS—*cont.*

Interviews at Office	...	...	...	...	793
Telephone calls made	...	...	...	...	196
Telephone calls received	...	...	...	...	377
Ice Cream Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	45
TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	...	...	...	...	6,192

Notices Served.

P.H. Acts (Informal)	...	...	...	...	141
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	1
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	13
TOTAL NOTICES SERVED	...	...	...	...	157

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

Year ending December, 1950

Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	27
Walls (External) Repointed, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Wall Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	28
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Cooking Ranges Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Coppers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks or Wash Basins Provided	...	...	...	...	26
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Interior Water Supplies Provided	...	...	...	...	1
Repairs to Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	3
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Food Stores Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Sashcords Provided	...	...	...	...	26
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Woodwork Repainted	...	...	...	...	—
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Dampness Abated	...	...	...	...	7
Rooms Cleansed and Redecorated	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	...	—
Handrails Fixed in Staircases	...	...	...	...	—
Additional Lighting Provided	...	...	...	...	—
Additional Ventilation Provided	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage.

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	...	...	32
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	71
Drains Connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	53
Vent Pipes or F.A.I.'s Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	15
New Gullies Provided	...	...	...	...	77
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	31
New Cesspools Constructed	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools Abolished	...	...	...	...	1

Water Closets.

New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	...	31
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	...	...	16
W.C.'s Cleansed	...	...	...	...	3

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED—*cont.*

W.C. Pedestals Provided	...	...	...	...	15
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Pailclosets Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	—
Pailclosets Abolished	...	...	...	...	1

Miscellaneous.

Dustbins—New provided	...	...	...	...	117
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	8
Animals—Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous Premises Disinfested	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Premises Cleared—Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	72

Contraventions Remedied In :

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	—
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	—
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food Premises Generally	...	...	...	...	...	32
Stables and Piggeries	—
Factories and Workplaces	9
Bakehouses	28

TOTAL DEFECTS REMEDIED	885
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2. Drainage and Sanitation.

The amount of time devoted to the supervision of drainage works showed an increase over the previous year and twelve of these schemes were of sufficient scope as to warrant the deposit of plans.

Two hundred and eighty-seven visits were made for the purpose of supervision and the smoke or water test was applied on seventy occasions.

A bungalow in an outlying part of the area, the drainage system of which has been a source of nuisance to nearby tenants of Council houses, was connected to the sewer and an unsatisfactory cesspool abolished. This work was effected after lengthy negotiation and the granting of an easement to enable the owner to construct drainage on land within the curtilage of a Council house.

Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was applied to a defective combined drain involving four properties in the Glassbrook Road. Sketch plans and details of defects were given to the Surveyor who arranged the execution of the work by direct labour.

The cesspool emptying machine was used to good advantage during the year and the demand for this service justified its continuation.

3. Refuse Collection.

The Public Health Department continues to contribute to the better collection of refuse by enforcing the provision of proper sanitary dustbins.

One hundred and seventeen dustbins were supplied to private properties as a result of notices served ; this again represents a 50% reduction in the replacement rate of the previous year and it seems

reasonable to assume that by next year, replacement will only be necessary as a result of fair wear and tear.

During the past three years approximately 25% of the private properties in the area have been provided with new dustbins.

4. Disinfestation and Disinfections.

The disinfection service was maintained throughout the year, there being a much greater demand in the form of requests from private persons. Disinfections of rooms, bedding and clothing were carried out on behalf of neighbouring local authorities who do not possess the equipment for such work. The following table gives some indication of the scope of these activities. The income from rechargeable works has increased by 40%.

Bed Bugs.

Eight premises were found infested with bed bugs but the infestations were light, requiring no more than one treatment to rid the affected premises.

Disinfections				Rooms	Articles of Bedding
After cases of Infectious Disease	...			31	175
After cases of Tuberculosis	...	...		13	21
Private Requests	...	...	...	35	219
Articles destroyed	...	...	...	—	57
				79	472

Amount recoverable (from Private Requests) : £26/4/10.

5. Rodent Control.

Anticipating the Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which became operative in March, 1950, the Council decided to appoint a full time rodent operator, who was first given the task of surveying the whole of the urban area.

Four thousand inspections were made and treatments were carried out at one hundred and eighty-four premises.

The survey revealed two reservoir infestations which require constant attention to prevent the overflow of rat colonies to other parts of the district ; one is the Council tip at Wellingborough Road and the other, an old established marine store dealer's business which is the greater potential danger. The brook running through the land affords a convenient passage for migration.

The town sewers were treated on two occasions during the year and the incidence of infestation being more prevalent in the newer systems suggests that the flow in the older sewers is too great to allow major infestation.

Concerted action was taken with the adjoining Borough of Higham Ferrers in necessary cases.

6. Movable Dwellings.

An application for a licence to use a four acre field as a caravan site was received by the Public Health Committee and, after due consideration, refused. The applicant did not appeal against this decision.

Two occupied trailer caravans which had been stationed behind a house in Higham Road were moved by the owner after he had been made aware of the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936.

7. Factories and Workshops.

There are 145 factories and workshops on the register.

Generally, the factories and the conditions prevailing therein are of a high standard and it is significant that no written notification of defects found was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year.

The only defect which caused concern was the emission of effluvia from a factory section carrying out paint spraying operations and this nuisance was soon abated by applying Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The arrangement for the notification of outworkers, made in conjunction with the factory owners and managers, is operating smoothly, the half-yearly lists being returned with punctuality.

The table showing inspections and defects remedied will be found on Page 36 in the Medical Officer's Report.

8. Smoke Abatement.

Atmospheric pollution does not constitute a serious problem so far as local industries are concerned, although no investigation has been made to ascertain the amount of pollution emanating from other sources. With winds blowing from the north west, belts of aerial pollution, spreading from the industrial areas of Liverpool and Manchester as far west as Bedfordshire have been reported by aviators operating on the inland air routes, and therefore it would be unwise to assume immunity from this danger to health whilst the steel plants and iron works of Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby belch forth smoke and grit on the north and west flank. Fortunately, the prevailing winds tend to ward off this pollution.

The majority of the local nuisances are caused by the use of poor or unsuitable fuel and the practice of lighting up boiler plants with leather scraps. These offences are usually capable of remedy through interviews with the managements.

One case of black smoke presented a more stubborn problem and in spite of the full co-operation of the management and technical inspection and advice from the Ministry of Fuel and Power engineers, the nuisance still exists, although in lesser degree.

9. Swimming Pool.

The water of the swimming pool was sampled on six occasions at the height of the season. All results were satisfactory.

PART 2.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk and Dairies.

The character of the milk supply in the Rushden area is showing a gradual change. Some of the purveyors dealing in smaller quantities are being absorbed by larger firms and the demand for pasteurized milk is now so great that producer-retailers are importing bottled pasteurized milk for re-sale to customers.

This situation is reflected in the number of licences for specially designated milk issued in 1950.

Six T.T. licences, two Accredited licences and six supplementary licences for pasteurized milk were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-49. There are 14 purveyors on the register.

One dairyman has installed a modern high temperature short-time pasteurizing plant and in so doing has met the requirements of the Public Health Department and the County Council in all matters of hygiene and plant lay-out.

Should Rushden be declared a specified area by the Ministry of Food under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1949, this plant would be capable of dealing with all raw milk consumed in the town.

Examinations of Milk

One hundred and thirty-two samples were taken for examination by the prescribed tests mostly carried out by the County Council. In September, 1950, the Public Health Laboratory took over the functions of milk sampling and results are now given as "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory". The term "Moderate" has been deleted and in future comparison this fact will have to be taken into consideration.

Analysis of the 1950 results show a decided improvement on the previous year, viz. :

72.2% were satisfactory ;
12% were moderate ;
15.8% were unsatisfactory.

The unsatisfactory samples were recorded during the months of June, July, August and September when atmospheric temperatures least favour examinations, and therefore the Council can be satisfied that the bulk of the town's milk supply is of a high degree of cleanliness.

Milk Samples

<i>Month</i>		<i>No. of samples taken</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Bad</i>
January	...	12	12	11	1	—
February	...	12	12	9	2	1
March	...	12	6	5	1	—
April	...	12	12	11	1	—
May	...	12	12	10	2	—
June	...	12	12	6	2	4
July	...	12	12	8	1	3
August	...	18	18	5	5	8
September	...	12	12	8	—	4
October	...	12	12	12	—	—
November	...	6	6	6	—	—
Totals	...	132	126	91	15	20

Thirty-seven samples of pasteurized milk were submitted to the prescribed Phosphatase test, only two failing to comply with the required standard.

Sampling of washed bottles was carried out during the year with the following results. No one will doubt the value of this work in maintaining a high standard of hygiene in the dairies.

Six samples of raw milk were taken and submitted for examination for the presence of tubercule bacilli. All samples gave negative results.

Rinsed Milk Bottles

<i>Month</i>		<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
March	...	4	4	—
May	...	7	4	3
July	...	3	3	—
August	...	3	2	1
September	...	4	3	1
October	...	3	2	1
Totals	...	24	18	6

2. Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream.

Contrary to popular opinion when the Ice Cream Regulations, 1947, became operative, the number of traders selling ice cream continued to increase, although the tendency is toward the pre-packed product of outside firms.

There is no doubt that the nature of the industry has undergone a complete change ; before the operation of the Regulations, it was possible for a number of persons to make a living from this business alone, but it is now clear that the sale of ice cream in Rushden is merely an adjunct to any other trade carried on.

The only change in the manufacturing side is the addition to the register of one cold mix manufacturer formerly a dealer in wrapped ice cream. One other person has installed the necessary equipment to deal with bulk sales, whilst the number of persons selling the wrapped product has risen by eight.

The state of the register at the end of 1950 is as follows :

Hot Mix manufacturers	...	...	3
Cold Mix manufacturers	4
Sellers of bulk ice cream	1
Sellers of wrapped ice cream	37
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Total	45
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It was found that sampling according to the recommended Ministry standard was not easy of attainment. To obtain a series of six samples from each trader during the short summer season meant a collection of 270 samples, a task to which an unreasonable amount of time would have to be devoted. From the experience gained, it is planned to obtain series of samples of each different brand in 1951.

Forty-six samples were examined by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton, and although no judgment of individual traders was possible the total results fall little below the requirements of the test recommended by the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service.

Samples in GRADE 1	19
Samples in GRADE 2	14
Samples in GRADE 3	9
Samples in GRADE 4	4
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Total	46
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3. Manufacture and Sale of Preserved Food.

Good progress has been made in bringing food manufacturing premises up to legal standard, and in many cases a standard above the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act.

The thirty-three premises on the register were inspected and comprehensive reports were submitted to the Food and Drugs Subcommittee for consideration. Several meetings were held to interview managements or owners to receive their observations of the detailed requirements, the traders co-operating without exception.

The necessary works have been carried out at nineteen premises and, though the programme is not complete, all works excluding structural alterations has been executed at the remaining fourteen.

By reason of shortage of materials and licencing difficulties, it has been necessary to grant an extension of time in these cases.

The use of three unsatisfactory premises was discontinued.

Towards the end of the year, the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into force. The full effect of these laws will not be felt until 1951 when the conditions secured in the more

important food preparation premises, will be applied to the shops where food is merely exposed and stored for sale.

Little progress has been made with the Northamptonshire Clean Food Guild and, considering all the circumstances involved, it will be wise for individual authorities to approach the problem of clean food handling either by setting up local Guilds and planning campaigns or by rigid application of the legislation at their disposal.

Talks on Food Hygiene were given to traders and managements during the year.

4. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

No licence to slaughter animals was granted in 1950.

Further reference to this subject will be found in the Meat and Food Inspection Section.

5. Meat and Food Inspection.

The breakdown of negotiations with Argentina over the price of meat taxed the resources of the Ministry of Food Livestock section to the full and it is no small wonder that the meat ration has been maintained at its present level.

However, it must be assumed that the home market was diligently searched, for the number of animals slaughtered was in excess of the previous year.

The large increase in the amount of condemned meat is due to the intake of 1,536 more cattle (including 223 extra cows) and a reduction of 812 sheep. In the field of meat inspection it is well known that cattle are more susceptible to disease than sheep, and therefore the increased figures of diseased meat are to be expected.

The percentage of bovine animals inspected affected with tuberculosis show an improvement when compared with those of last year.

The problem of obtaining skilled slaughtermen is ever before the persons responsible for carrying out slaughtering contracts. With no apprentices entering this trade, the time may well arrive when drastic action will have to be taken to recruit new entrants unless some provision is made to attract personnel. This work requires skill, involves heavy manual labour and is carried on in surroundings which are particularly unpleasant to most men. Whether or not the Ministry of Food intend to retain the control of slaughtering, this problem should not be overlooked.

Seventeen cases of cysticercus bovis were diagnosed, the incidence being mainly confined to prime quality steers and heifers.

The acquisition of a microscope greatly facilitated these diagnoses and has been of great value in the work of meat inspection.

Inspection at the Bedford Road Abattoir was maintained at 100% and it is pleasing to record another year of close co-operation with the local Ministry of Food officials.

Seventy-eight visits were made to shops, workhouses and stores to inspect various foodstuffs and approximately three quarters of a ton of foodstuffs was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The table opposite will indicate the extent of the work carried out.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Bulls</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Steers</i>	<i>Heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected ...	47	1,249	1,124	968	873	8,504	1,314
TUBERCULOSIS							
1. Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	51	6	7	1	—	7
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	10	508	154	109	3	—	123
TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS AFFECTED WITH TUBERCULOSIS ...	11	559	160	116	4	—	130
3. Percentage of animals inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	23.4%	44.7%	14.2%	11.9%	0.45%	—	9.8%
4. General incidence Adult Bovine	24.9%						
OTHER DISEASES							
Specific disease other than T.B. causing condemnation of the whole carcass							
Emaciation ...	—	9	—	—	1	18	1
Fever-Acute ...	—	5	—	—	1	2	1
Immaturity ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Joint Ill ...	—	—	—	—	17	—	—
Mastitis (including septic) ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Peritonitis—septic ...	—	2	2	—	1	1	1
Pericarditis ...	—	1	—	1	—	2	2
Pneumonia—including Gangrene ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Pyæmia ...	—	5	—	—	3	1	1
Septæcæmia ...	—	6	2	—	3	—	4
Swine Erysipelas—Acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Uraemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice ...	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Nephritis—Pyleo ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Metritis—Septic ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Anaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Johnne's Disease ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	33	5	2	33	42	19

Total number of animals slaughtered and inspected ... 14,079
Total number of whole carcasses condemned ... 207

Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned

	TUBERCULOSIS				OTHER DISEASES			
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Carcass Meat ...	16	8	1	22	12	16	3	14
Offal ...	20	8	2	11	17	1	2	3
	36	16	3	5	29	18	1	17
TOTAL WEIGHT ...	66 Tons 15 cwts. 0 qrs. 22 lbs.							

Cysticercus Bovis

<i>No. of animals affected</i>	<i>No. showing head lesions</i>	<i>No. showing heart lesions</i>	<i>No. showing diaphragm lesions</i>	<i>No. affected in other locations</i>
17	17	—	2	—

Number of visits to the Abattoir	...	...	...	...	417
Number of casualties admitted	...	...	...	...	471

UNSOUND FOOD

The following foodstuffs were inspected at the Abattoir or local shops and found unfit for human consumption. In all cases the food was destroyed or disposed of for animal feeding.

Tins of meat	...	...	...	...	...	130
Tins of fish	...	...	...	...	...	40
Tins of vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	299
Tins of milk	...	...	...	...	...	181
Tins of fruit	...	...	...	...	...	34
Tins of jam	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tins of marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tins of puddings	...	...	...	...	...	20
Tins of tomato juice	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jars of meat paste	...	...	...	...	...	3
Packets of milk puddings	...	...	...	...	...	32
Packets of sponge flour	...	...	...	...	...	48
Packets of wheat flakes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Packets of crisps	...	...	...	...	...	52
Packets of cheeses	...	...	...	...	...	68
Bottles of coffee	...	...	...	...	...	44
Bottles of salad cream	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quantity of cheese	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quantity of margarine	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quantity of sponges	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quantity of layer cake	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quantity of wet fish	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quantity of figs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quantities of sausages	...	...	...	...	...	4
Quantities of bacon	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quantities of beef	...	...	...	...	...	2

The Total Weight being : 14 cwts. 1 qr. 10 lbs.

PART 3.

HOUSING

The action to be taken in cases of sub-standard properties is becoming more difficult.

Tenants for new Council houses are occasionally chosen from persons occupying condemned properties which are immediately subject to official action to prevent re-occupation, but demand for new houses so much exceeds supply, that the time when building will be executed solely to replace slum properties cannot be foreseen.

Labour and materials being in such short supply, it has not been possible to carry out improvement schemes on premises which do not yet fall into the category of slums and the action of the Health Department has been mainly confined to the service of notices under the Public Health Act, 1936.

During the year two houses have been subject to action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ; one has been demolished and the site cleared.

Three cottages were closed after informal negotiations with the owner and an undertaking has been given to demolish the block of four when the remaining cottage becomes vacant.

Information relating to housing activity is set down below.

No. of inspections under the Housing Acts	...	78
No. of informal notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts	... ..	31
No. of statutory notices served	... ..	3
No. of individual houses dealt with under Section 11		2

